

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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TAGS: PINT ELAB PO

SUBJ: PROPOSAL FOR LABOR LEADER TRAINING PROGRAM

REF: LISBON 400

SUMMARY: WE BELIEVE SUBJECT PROPOSAL IS PRACTICAL AND WOULD
ENJOY CTV SUPPORT. END SUMMARY

1. WE BELIEVE THE THE VENEZUELAN LABOR MOVEMENT AND MORE SPECIFICALLY
THE ACCION DEMOCRATICA (AD) MAJORITY OF THE CONFEDERATION OF
VENEZUELAN WORDERS (CTV) WOULD REACT FAVORABLY TO SUBJECT
PROPOSAL. IT FITS IN NICELY WITH VIEWS FREQUENTLY EXPRESSED
BY CTV PRESIDENT JOSE VARGAS AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE AD CTV
LEADERSHIP THAT BOTH THE US AND VENEZUELA OUGHT TO DO MORE
TO SUPPORT DEMOCRATIC LABOR MOVEMENTS IN OTHER
COUNTRIES. THE EXTREMELY WARM AD RECEPTION GIVEN VISITING
PORTUGUESE SOCIALISTS, PARTICULARLY PORTUGUESE SOCIALIST
PARTY PRESIDENT MARIO SOARES (CARACAS 83), AD'S MEMBERSHIP
IN THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL, AD'S ACTIVIST ROLE IN COOPERATING
WITH EUROPEAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATS IN SUPPORTING SOCIAL
DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENTS IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE, AND THE
CLOSE TIES WITH PORTUGAL MAINTAINED BY THE HUNDREDS OF
THOUSANDS OF VENEZUELAN OF PORTUGUESE DESCENT COMBINE TO MAKE
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A FAVORABLE REACTION PROBABLE.

2. IT ALSO SEEMS LIKELY THAT SOME COMBINATION OF THE CTV, AD, OR THE GOV WOULD BE WILLING TO PICK UP A LARGE PART OF THE COSTS OF A TRAINING PROGRAM ALONG THE LINES OUTLINED IN REF. INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL IS THE PORTION OF THE CTV WOULD BE THE LEAST LIKELY TO BE WILLING TO FINANCE ALTHOUGH IF SUFFICIENTLY TAKEN WITH THE IDEA THE CTV MIGHT EVEN COVER ALL EXPENSES, AT LEAST INITIALLY.

3. THE PHYSICAL FACILITIES AND INSTRUCTORS FOR SUBJECT PROGRAM ARE READILY AVAILABLE IN CARACAS AS ARE PORTUGUESE-SPANISH INTERPRETERS (WE BELIEVE TRANSLATION WOULD BE NECESSARY TO GUARANTEE THAT PORTUGUESE TRADE UNIONISTS REAPED MAXIMUM BENEFIT FROM THE PROGRAM).

4. THE ACTUAL MECHANICS OF THE PROGRAM, PARTICULARLY IF USG FINANCING IS REQUIRED, MIGHT BE A BIT MORE DIFFICULT. AIFLD WOULD SEEM TO BE THE MOST NATURAL CONDUIT EITHER DIRECTLY OR THRU ONE OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE SECRETARIATS(IRO-FIET PRESIDENT ISMARIO GONZALEZ IS ALSO THE EDUCATION SECRETARY OF THE CTV). AIFLD INVOLVEMENT WOULD ALSO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THE PROGRAM IS BEING UNDERTAKEN WITH THE FULL KNOWLEDGE AND SUPPORT OF THE AFL-CIO, INDISPENSABLE TO CTV COOPERATION. WE WOULD BE GALD TO ENTERTAIN ANY OTHER SUGGESTIONS REGARDING MECHANICS.

5. IN ADDITION TO TRAINING PORTUGUESE TRADE UNIONISTS IN VENEZUELA IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO PROMOTE VISITS BY HIGH LEVEL VENEZUELAN TRADE UNION LEADERS TO PORTUGAL. PERHAPS THE GOP ITSELF COULD ARRANGE THIS IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE INAUGURATION OF THE TAP CARACAS- LISBON ROUTE REPRTEDLY IN FEBRARY '76. A VISIT BY VENEZUELAN TRADE UNION LEADERS WOULD BOTH ALLOW THE VENEZUELAN PERSONALLY TO ASSESS THE SITUATION IN PORTUGAL AND ALSO GIVE THEM A CHANCE TO CONSULT WITH THEIR PORTUGUESE COUNTERPARTS ABOUT THE VENEZUELAN EXPERIENCE IN REDUCING COMMUNIST INFLUENCE IN THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT AFTER THE OVERTHROW OF THE PEREZ JIMENEZ DICTATORSHIP.

5. WE WILL REFRAIN FROM BROACHING THE SUBJECT WITH THE LEADERSHIP OF THE CTV UNTIL WE RECEIVE THE DEPT'S INSTRUCTIONS
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HOWEVER,
EVEN IF THE USG DECIDES NOT TO BECOME INVOLVED IN SUBJECT PROGRAM, IT WOULD PROBABLY BE WORTHWHILE TO TALK WITH THE CTV ON AN INFORMAL BASIS ABOUT THE DESIRABILITY OF ITS LAUNCHING ITS OWN UNILATERAL PROGRAM.

6. A PROGRAM OF THE SORT SUGGESTED COULD HAVE A FAVORABLE IMPACT ON US-VENEZUELAN BILATERAL RELATIONS BY

ALLOWING US TO COOPERATE CLOSELY IN AN AREA WHERE OUR
INTERESTS COINCIDE DURING AN ERA WHEN WE FREQUENTLY
FIND OURSELVES ON OPPOSITE SIDES OF MANY QUESTIONS.
SHLAUDEMAM

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